

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9936

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01327

BERLIN FOR AMBASSADOR

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR, GW, UN

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FRG FONOFF OFFICIAL'S THINKING ON
ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 15388; (B) STATE 15406; (C) BONN 1227

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1. EMBASSY ECONCOUNSELOR MET WITH FOREIGN OFFICE

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAUTENSCHLAGER TO CONVEY INFORMATION ON THE COMPOSITION OF US DELEGATION TO THE ENERGY CONFERENCE. IN TURN, LAUTENSCHLAGER TOLD EMBOFFICER THAT FRG DELEGATION NOT YET OFFICIALLY APPROVED, BUT WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD CONSIST OF THE THREE CABINET AND SUB-CABINET OFFICERS LISTED IN REFTEL C. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A SECOND ECHELON TEAM CONSISTING OF FONOFF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERMES, ECONOMICS MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LANTZKE, AND MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHMIDT-KUESTER. FURTHER, THERE WILL BE A GROUP OF LOWER WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM THE RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES.

2. RESPONDING TO EMBOFFICER'S EXPOSITION OF US VIEWS ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL B, LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THAT THE FRG DID NOT VIEW THE FRENCH INITIATIVE FOR A WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES AS A SPOILING OPERATION DESIGNED TO AFFECT THE WORK OF THE PLANNED WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. RATHER, IT IS SEEN AS A MOVE INTENDED TO BROADEN THE FORUM OF PARTICIPATION, IN THE FUTURE, IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM WHICH IS OF WORLD-WIDE CONCERN. HE SAID THAT PARTICIPANTS AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER THE SERIOUS PROCEDURAL QUESTION HOW TO ENGAGE ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. IT NOW APPEARS THAT EVENTUALLY SOME FORM OF UN INVOLVEMENT MAY BECOME INEVITABLE. LAUTENSCHLAGER WENT ON TO SAY THAT AN OPPORTUNITY MAY HAVE BEEN LOST WHEN WASHINGTON TOOK A NEGATIVE STAND ON HAVING THE ENERGY PROBLEM CONSIDERED BY THE OECD. THIS MORE RESTRICTIVE GROUPING OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES, YET BROADER THAN THE PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, COULD HAVE WORKED OUT AN ARRANGEMENT FOR CONTACTS WITH THE OPEC COUNTRIES. THE IMPLICATION OF LAUTENSCHLAGER'S COMMENT WAS THAT THIS COURSE MIGHT HAVE AVERTED THE FRENCH INITIATIVE FOR A CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES. LAUTENSCHLAGER THEN ALLUDED TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, WHICH IS, SIMILARLY TO THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, AN OUTGROWTH OF AN INITIATIVE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

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HE POSED THE QUESTION: "WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND A WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE?" ENERGY, HE SAID, IS AS MUCH A WORLD PROBLEM AS IS FOOD.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION, LAUTENSCHLAGER COULD NOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHAT IS LIKELY TO EMERGE AS AN EC COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO GUIDE THE COMMUNITY'S

REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON. NOR WAS HE CERTAIN
HOW FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL WOULD DIVIDE HIS ROLES AS
SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMUNITY ON THE ONE HAND AND AS
LEADER OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION ON THE OTHER.
HILLENBRAND

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